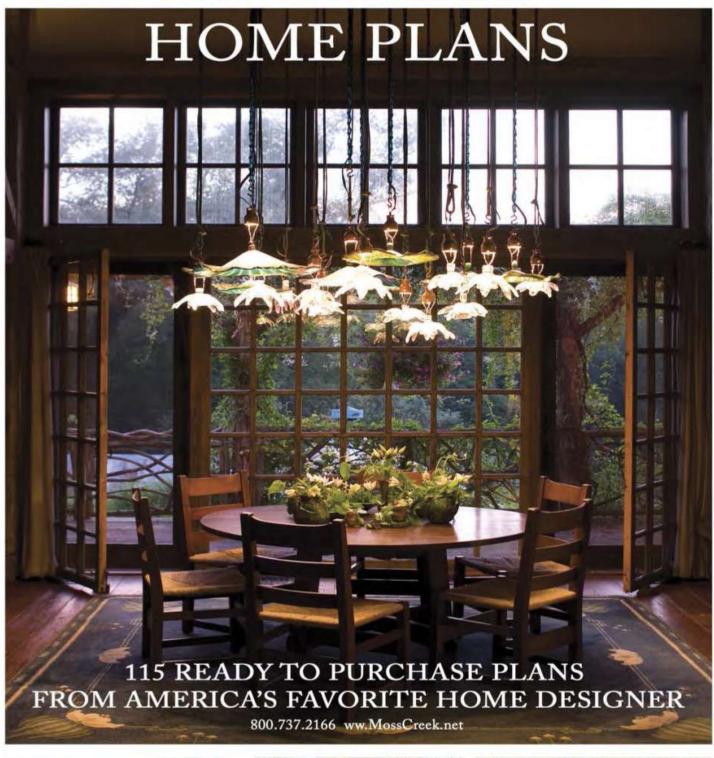


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CUSTOM WOOD HOMES

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HYBRID HOME Redefining Rustic

A Montana hybrid home masters rugged elegance. MIXED MATERIALS **Best of**

Both Worlds

"Urban chic" meets "rustic retreat" in this Canadian timber home.

 $\begin{array}{c} 20 \\ Log\ \text{Home} \\ Lake side \end{array}$

Living

A Wisconsin half-log home delivers full-log satisfaction.

TIMBER HOME Reclaimed Retreat

One Canadian home offers the benefits of traditional timber framing in a modern design.



Furnishing School

Finish off your home with our favorite picks for decor and accessories.

Walk on the Wild Side

Let Mother Nature run free in your garden.

Resources

From furniture to floor coverings, we show you where to find all your custom wood home essentials.

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KITCHENS63
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Products & Sources pages 46, 57

Dream Homes – pages 6, 18, 28, 36

Your Shopping Source - pages 46,57

Walls of windows paired with no-fuss furnishings bring a contemporary feel to this Montana hybrid home. Read the full story on page 6.

photographer HEIDI LONG



Visit mywoodhome.com to view hundreds of floor plans.

also in this issue

Editor's Note

Builder/Dealer Marketplace

Focus on Floor Plans

Supplier Marketplace

Regional Resource Guide

Free Information Guide

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EDITOR'S NOTE



T'S A SEEMINGLY SIMPLE QUESTION: What's the most important thing I need to create the custom home of my dreams? The answer, on the other hand, proves to be a bit more complicated. Sure, a hefty budget and top-notch design and build team would be a great place to start. But even with all the means in the world, you won't get very far if you're lacking one key ingredient: inspiration.

Inspiration is a powerful thing. It can cut through the confusion and indecision that can plague even the most experienced home builder, and help steer you on a clear path to your goals. It reassures you that the flooring sample you've fallen in love with is the right hue and texture for your interior spaces, and the patio furniture you've selected will, in fact, fit in perfectly with the outdoor oasis you've envisioned for your backyard. Most importantly, inspiration helps you to see all the possibilities for your future home even if the start to your custom-home project is still a few years off.

That inspiration will also help you convey your ideas to those that you're working with. To keep it simple, compile some kind of log with photos and samples of things that you like. Some people keep a notebook of clippings, some bookmark photos on websites, and some keep ideas on a digital tablet. Just look for homes and features that speak to you; even if you don't use the exact ideas in your future home, what you've collected will give your team a sense of your style and an indication of the quality you expect.

If you're wondering where to begin finding these ideas, you've come to the right place. Chosen to help you navigate the way through your wood-home journey, the beautiful tours and expert tips in the pages of this special issue will help you build a house that's uniquely yours.

In short, consider this Custom Wood Homes Style Guide to be a crucial step toward your dream. And now, with that inspiration firmly in hand, it's time to get started!







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INFORMATION



Download the **Custom Wood** Homes Style Guide and enjoy it on your iPad, Kindle or Nook! **Available** Dec. 1st.

CUSTOM WOOD HOMES

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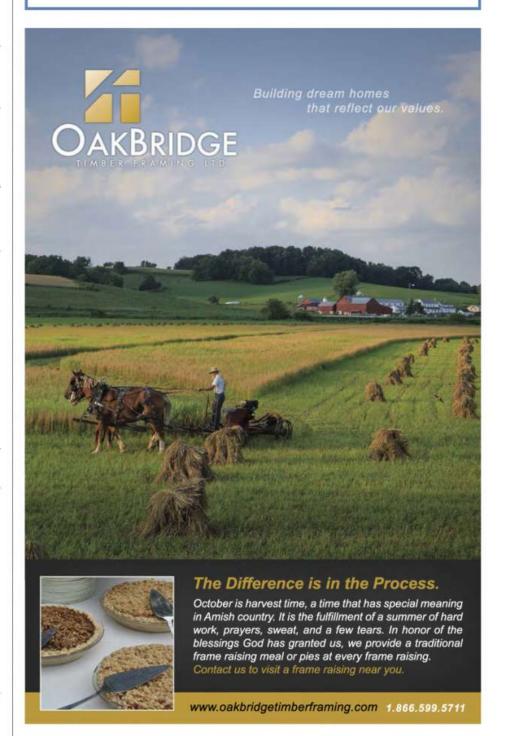


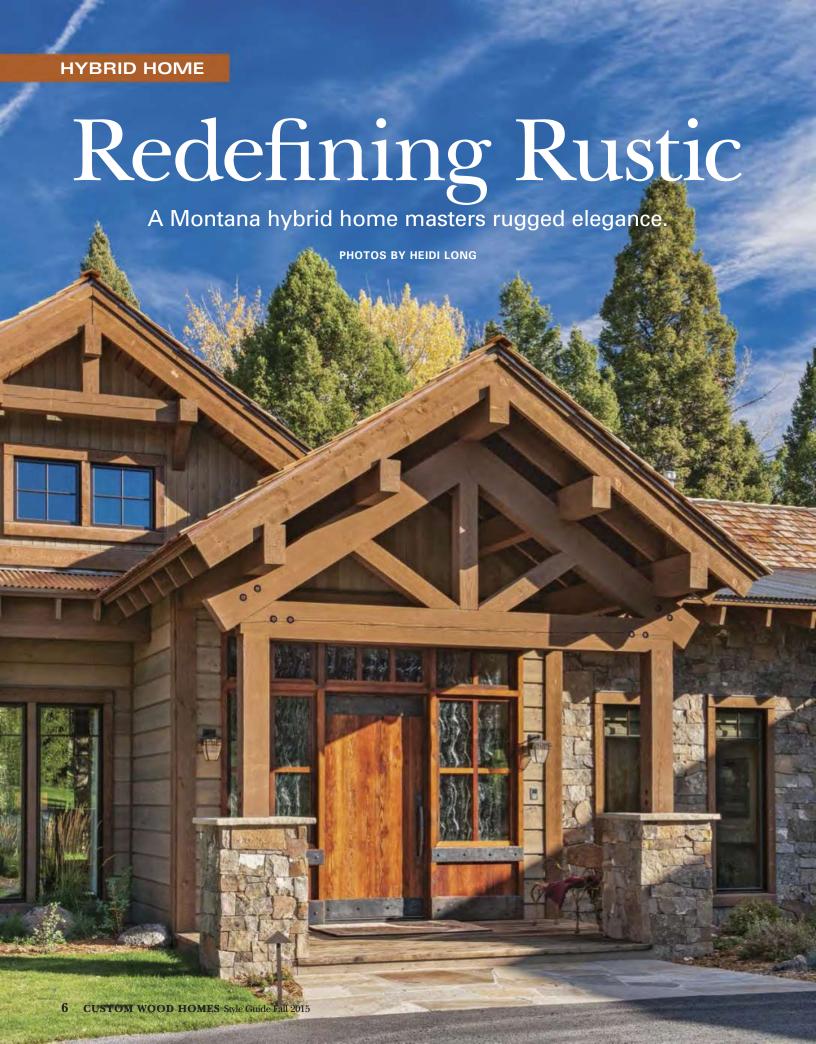


The Timber Framers Guild offers educational opportunities in the art and craft of timber framing. Through publications, conferences, and community projects, the Timber Framers Guild is the resource center for professionals, enthusiasts, craftsmen and historians alike.

Please join us for the 2015 Conference October 29 - November 1, 2015 in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho.

Contact us at info@tfguild.org or visit us at www.tfquild.org for more information.













or most, finding a property to rival their dream home is a challenge. For some, it's the other way around.

"When an amazing property became available in a meadow with aspen and pine trees, and a little creek, our clients decided to take a look," recalls project manager Jesse Vigil with Missoula, Montana-based CTA Architects and Engineers. "After walking the site, instead of buying just one lot, they decided to take all three."

Located in southwestern Montana, in the renowned Rock Creek Cattle Company, the house had a lot to prove against the stunning backdrop. But, with the help of a top-notch design and build team, it more than met the challenge. "We really wanted to capture the view of the creek and pay respect to the meadow, as well as take notes from what the creek was doing," explains Vigil.



The resulting house is one that feels at home with its surroundings. The team decided on a "Rocky Mountain rustic" look, incorporating rugged elements such as timber siding and rockwork, but "knocking the edges off a little bit" to make the design a bit cleaner and more contemporary, says Vigil.

"We lightened up the interior and exterior a bit with design details like the glass breezeway that connects the main house to the guesthouse."

Other standout design elements include exterior and interior timberwork (some are purely accents while others are structural), Montana Moss Rock



...in the great room

SEE THE LIGHT (LEFT).

Large windows positioned along a hallway make a functional space beautiful. This hallway that leads to the owner's side of the house, offers views to the creek. The stonework from outside was also brought in to add a bit of weight to the interior design. "The stonework gives the hallway a little more importance and the reclaimed wood products break up the stone," explains Vigil. "It creates a warmth and nice contrast with the painted walls."

IN THE MIX (ABOVE).

Rugged elements like the knuckle-rubbed hickory floors and Montana Moss Rock create a natural background for the nofuss, neutral furnishings.

SIT A SPELL (RIGHT).

When you're designing your custom home, think about special floor plan features that will enhance the way you live. "The owners wanted a sunken bar, so that's what we created," says Vigil. "If you're entertaining in the living room, you can actually seat your guests at a normalheight chair, pull up to the bar and the bartender is down below you, looking up."



...in the kitchen

NATURAL BEAUTY (BELOW).

The all-natural kitchen is anchored with a stone wall and heavy metal cover around the range hood. Next to the main countertop, a custom butcher block-topped island serves as an instant talking point and functional cooking space.

HOUSE OF STYLE (FAR RIGHT).

Transitional style is a great option in a custom home, where you can mix aesthetics and design elements for an eclectic look. Here, the contemporary dining chairs and sleek chandelier work surprisingly well with the natural-wood table and character floors. Neutral window treatments soften the appearance of wood and glass in the room.





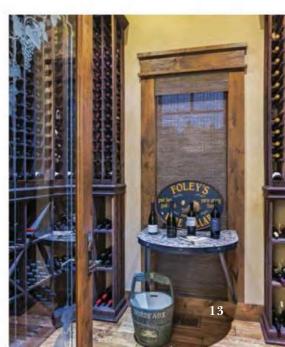






and large windows throughout to take in the views of the nearby creek. "We opted for copper windows and encasements so you can open up the back of the house and bring that babbling creek noise inside," says Vigil.

In the end, the house became the perfect complement to the setting — understated yet impressive. "When you look outside and see the aspens changing colors and the sun starting to go into twilight," says Vigil, "it feels like the house has been sitting there forever."



...in the bedroom

MASTER OF THE HOUSE (RIGHT).

Soften your spaces with warm area rugs, draperies and bedding. A neutral, cream-colored paint color (found throughout the entire home) brightens the master bedroom space, and the fine furnishings make the room feel like an instant getaway.

MEET IN THE MIDDLE (BELOW; RIGHT).

Bring the spa feel to your master bathroom with smart planning and high-end amenities. In this bathroom, a shared, walk-in shower is positioned between the his-and-hers vanity spaces. The oversized builtins, one on each side, provide ample storage and countertop space.











...on the deck

TAKE IT OUTSIDE (BELOW).

Remember to look to the great outdoors for added living space. At the back of this house, a covered entertaining area sits tightly in the knuckle of the home, explains Vigil. "You can look out the back of the house and see the entertaining space. It's nice and cool back there because it's covered, and you also have the fireplace with a little sitting spot, dining area and kitchen, so you can spend time outdoors all year round."





JESSE WIGHL CTA ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS

Why do you think people love to live in wood homes?

Wood adds a lot of warmth and texture to a home. It is also a timeless material that has been used for centuries and will continue into the future with the use of sustainable harvest practices.

Are more people now opting for hybrid designs to incorporate a mix of styles in one home?

It seems that people are becoming more design savvy and they're getting more engaged in the design process. Because of this, they're bringing more information to the design team. Most clients are asking that cool items they see on Houzz, Pinterest, magazines or online are added to the home. So yes, this trend

has led to more hybrid homes that take interesting elements or style notes from the traditional designs to develop a balanced design.

What is your favorite feature in this house?

Either the creekside patio or simply the way the house sits in the oxbow of Rock Creek. The creekside patio creates a covered entertaining area that is just steps away from the water. With an ourdoor kitchen, fireplace, and seating areas you can really settle into the outdoors and enjoy entertaining. The overall footprint of this home, on the other hand, responds very well to the existing meadow, creek and vegetation. When you pull up to the house with the creek and trees as the backdrop, it just feels like it belongs there.





Best of Both Worlds

"Urban chic" meets "rustic retreat" in this Canadian timber home.

PHOTOS BY SEAN DE LIMA

or some, building a custom home means living the dream worlds away from everyday life. For others, that dream is realized right in their own backyard. "My clients wanted to build two houses — one in the mountains and one in the city," says Kevin Gray, owner of Kevin Gray Interiors in Calgary. "But after looking at costs, they couldn't take on two projects without sacrificing many of the elements they desired, so we built their mountain home in the city."

The three-level, five-bedroom house that backs up to a river in downtown Calgary, embodies the "urban rustic" theme the owners and their team were striving for. They wanted traditional timber-frame elements, but a richer, darker look, so that was the jumping off point for the entire design, explains Gray.

"We didn't want it to look like it was plucked out of the forest and placed in the city," he says. "Instead, we wanted it to have

EXTERIOR APPEAL. Don't be afraid to mix unexpected materials in your custom home. Here, Douglas fir timbers are paired with custom-milled, solid-wood siding that features a "similar aesthetic to chinking," says designer Kevin Gray. Cedar shakes stained a custom gray/ green tone paired with fascia boards and window battens in a steel blue bring muted color to the home's exterior.





an urban sensibility; a sophisticated look with eclectic notes."

To accomplish just that, Gray started from the outside and moved in, creating contrast in colors, texture and themes. Reclaimed materials are found throughout the house, from the floors to the walls, and they're paired with surprisingly modern touches, including copper fixtures, slate countertops and sleek lighting fixtures. Combine these finishes with the rich furnishings in copper, gold and teal, and the result is a lesson in mix-and-match perfection.

"A timber frame project like this is always challenging because there are more details to coordinate between design and construction, which you dont get on conventional homes, but the reward is worth it," says Gray. "We love having happy clients who talk glowingly about their home, which is certainly the case here."









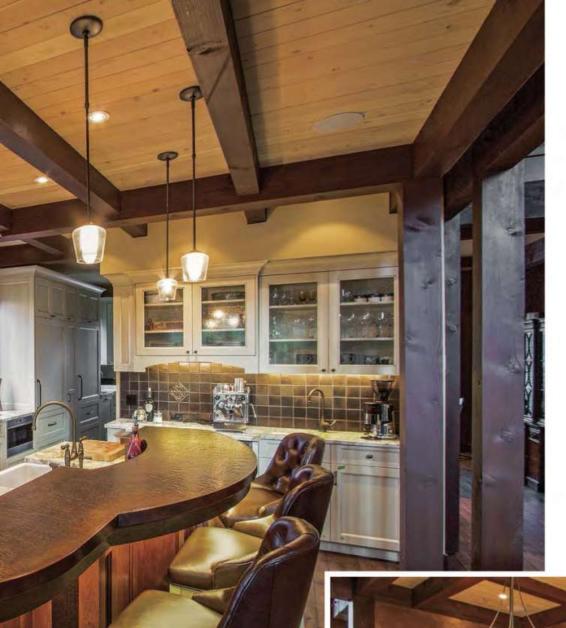




...in the

STYLISH SANCTUARY (LEFT).

Old meets new in the private office space. Designed to resemble a miner's cabin, the room boasts reclaimed barn wood walls and oak flooring. The desk was made from pedestals wrapped in leather and topped with granite in a leathered finish. Plaid wool draperies warm up the room and bring pattern into the space.



eating areas

VISUAL APPEAL (LEFT).

Even in a wood home, try to incorporate lighter elements for instant brightness. Neutral paint colors and a light ceiling complement the cream cabinets and no-fuss pendant lights. Rustic elements, including a hammered-copper countertop and veneer-thickness stone around the ovens and stove tops, carry the theme of the house into the space.

FINE DINING (BELOW).

Eye-catching elements, like the teal upholstered benches and textured walls, make a statement in the formal dining space. Juxtaposing pieces from different styles or eras, such as the table and buffet, is a smart way to add visual interest. In the casual eating space, simple furnishings work well in the room without taking away from the architectural elements.

23











...in the private spaces

MIXED MATERIALS (LEFT).

Sleek finishes like the under-mount white porcelain sink and honed-slate countertop contrast perfectly with the cherry cabinets and overhead beams. Copper faucets complement the 24-inch "metallic" tiles on the walls and floors.

RECLAIMED RUSTIC (FAR LEFT).

To create a rustic feel, use unexpected elements in unexpected ways. "We wanted the powder room to feel more rustic, so we used the reclaimed oak floor boards on the walls and stained them darker," says Gray. The custom mirror was made from an old tractor tire and chain.

ADDED COMFORT (BELOW).

Don't skimp on furnishings and textiles for your home. The theme in the bedroom was blended silks and rough linens, so items like the silk/velvet throw intentionally contrasted the matte texture of the linen bedding and draperies. In the media room, a coffee table was retrofitted with a plaid, button-tufted cover to bring color and interest to the room.







SQUARE FOOTAGE: 4,765

ARCHITECT: McDowell & Associates, 403-245-8361; mcdowelldesign.com

AREA RUG IN LIVING ROOM: Kravet, 800-645-9068; kravet.com

BACKSPLASH TILES IN KITCHEN: Pratt & Larson, prattandlarson.com

CHANDELIER IN LIVING ROOM; LIGHTS IN MASTER BATHROOM; PENDANTS IN KITCHEN: Hubbardton Forge, 800-826-4766; hubbardtonforge.com

FAUCET IN POWDER ROOM: Sonoma Forge, 800-330-5553; sonomaforge.com

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Koronko Custom Homes, 403-678-3340; koronko.com

INTERIOR DESIGNER; CUSTOM FURNITURE THROUGHOUT: Kevin Gray Interiors, 403-453-6860; kevingrayinteriors.com

OFFICE DOORS: George Hemeon, 403-746-6623

SINK IN POWDER ROOM: Native Trails, 800-768-0862; native trails.net

SCONCES IN OFFICE, POWDER ROOM: Restoration Hardware, 800-910-9836; rh.com

TIMBER PROVIDER: Hamill Creek Timber Homes, 250-366-4320; hamillcreek.com



als for their home?

You can contact suppliers and sources directly, or a local designer can help by providing the products or connecting you with the supplier. There are usually a variety of local sources for barn board; simply conduct an online search in your area for "architectural salvage" or "reclaimed wood" and that will usually

Spread them thoughtfully throughout the home so that it develops a theme rather than looking random. Also, don't be afraid of making bold statements; in a timber home the posts and beams are such strong design elements that they demand equally strong colors, textures and contrasts to hold their own and make a statement.





Lakeside Living

A Wisconsin half-log home delivers full-log satisfaction.

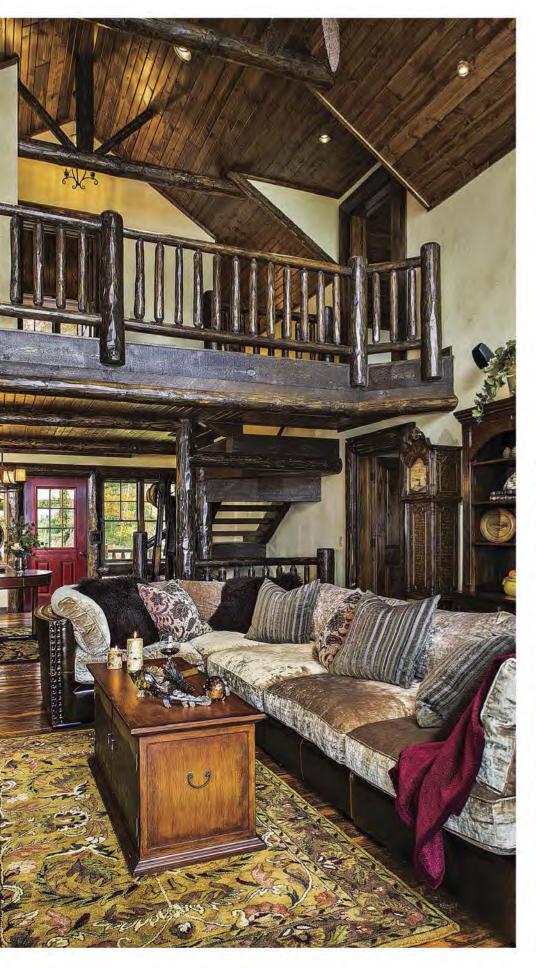
PHOTOS BY ROGER WADE STUDIO **COURTESY OF EXPEDITION LOG HOMES**

hen the owners of this home found 10.5 acres with 300 feet of frontage on Wisconsin's Lake Lucerne, they hoped to renovate a cottage on the property. It was beyond repair, however, so they welcomed the opportunity to create a lakeside retreat from scratch. They felt that half-log construction - full logs cut in two and sandwiched around conventional framed and insulated walls — would provide the right look but offer more interior versatility.

As a result, the home features 9-inch, white pine cabin logs with vertical post corners for a smooth appearance. The surfaces of the wall logs and posts are hand-finished to convey rustic charm. Full-log king post trusses and half-log trim for the windows and doors enhance the look.

The owners designed the home to take advantage of lake views and their backyard pond. That meant big windows in the great room. Half-log construction allowed for drywall, both to balance the log work and to help reflect natural light throughout the interior.





...in the great room

CREATE CONTRAST (LEFT).

Rather that overwhelming your interior spaces with too much brown wood, opt for contrasting shades. Here, a dark, rich stain was custom made specifically to give the home a rustic feel, and it pairs perfectly with the cream-colored walls that work to brighten the space.

GET PERSONAL (FAR LEFT).

Incorporate items to personalize your custom home. The mantel in this great room was made from timbers that were in the Wisconsin Peshtigo Fire. Also, in the fireplace, you'll see a specialized stone in the shape of Wisconsin.



...in the kitchen

IN THE MIX (RIGHT).

Mixing styles and materials is a tricky task, but don't be afraid to take risks in your design. Random-width half logs (complete with thick chinking) give this kitchen an old-timey cabin feel, while the glossy granite countertops and backsplash keep things modern.

WALK THIS WAY (BELOW; RIGHT).

When you're mixing materials, it's smart to keep some things simple. In this home, rough-sawn tongue-and-groove flooring was used throughout. The flooring was intentionally put down while the interior walls and ceilings were being built to add character; scaffolding was dragged across the floors and tools were dropped, creating knicks and marks before the floors were sealed.





...in the bedroom

LIGHTEN UP (LEFT).

In a wood home, opting for half-log construction allows you to incorporate drywall inside the home, which balances the amount of wood and helps to reflect natural light. In this bedroom space, half logs were also used to trim the perimeter of the windows that were included to take in the lake views.





Random-width logs with chinking were attached to the kitchen drywall to add an old-timey cabin touch that white pine car siding and accent logs reinforce. Distressed white pine flooring embellishes that look. The owners were particularly pleased to be able to salvage tongue-and-groove paneling from the property's original cottage to use in the lower-level bedrooms and connect to the land's history.

home | details

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 2,646

DESIGNER; LOG PROVIDER:

Expedition Log Homes, 877-250-3300; expeditionloghomes.com

BUILDER: Northern Expedition

Log Homes, 715-582-3610; expeditionloghomes.com

STAIN: Kelsey Coatings, Inc., 920-336-4455; kelseycoatings.com









Timber-Frame Triumph

One Canadian home offers the benefits of traditional timber framing in a modern design.

PHOTOS BY ROBERT NELSON

t's hard to imagine a home so stunning it could rival the natural beauty of the Canadian countryside. But take one look at this farmhouse-inspired retreat by Canadian Timberframes of Golden, British Columbia, and that's exactly what you'll see.

Situated on 160 acres of rolling hills and woodland, the 10,500-square-foot, eight-bedroom home was designed to pay tribute to the functional farmhouses that are







...in the great room

LIGHTEN UP (LEFT).

Light-colored walls are a unique way to brighten up a wood home. Here, the design team chose whitewashed tongue-and-groove walls to contrast the rough-sawn timbers. "The homeowner wanted a warmer feeling than drywall allows," says Bowes.

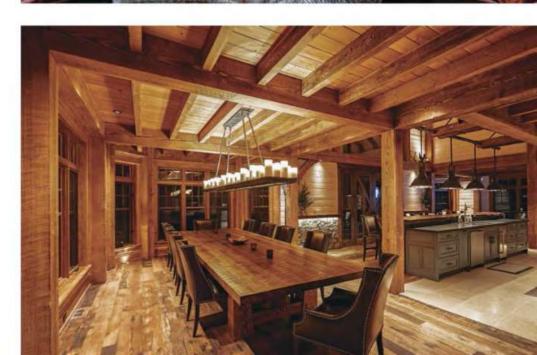
HEAVY METAL (ABOVE RIGHT).

To create an industrial feel, think about incorporating metal accents into your timber structure. The steel in this house is a combination of decorative and structural. Canadian Timberframes worked together with a commissioned blacksmith to add metal accents to the space, including the fireplace surround in the great room.

LIVE LARGE (BELOW RIGHT).

Large spaces call for equally large furnishings, much like this custommade table in the dining room. The interior trim also stands out in this space — a special addition that surrounds all the windows, doors and baseboards throughout the house.











native to the area — just on a much larger scale.

"The homeowner wanted to duplicate the archetypal farmhouse, but in a massive version," explains Jeff Bowes, president of Canadian Timberframes. "To do this, he turned to a heavy-timber structure."

And it was that full, structural frame that became the focal point in the stunning home, setting the stage for the wood-heavy theme. "The owner had already bought a turn-of-the-century log building, so he was impressed with the old saw work and

reclaimed aesthetic," says Bowes. To achieve that same look in the house, Bowes and his team created an antique finish on the heavy, rough-sawn timbers. "We even burned the timbers a bit for added texture before applying a wire- brush treatment and stain," he adds.

No drywall was used in the house. Instead, all of the ceilings are 2-by-8-inch Douglas fir tongue-and-groove. "The owner didn't want drywall, but a warmer feeling. The material choices also perfectly contrast the rough-sawn timbers," Bowes explains.

For added detail, the design team drew on the homeowner's experience in the mining sector, incorporating elements like a four-story elevator created to mimic the look of an old mining shaft. Extra amenities include an indoor pool, wine room and sauna, but the real star is the timber frame. "The timber design by Canadian Timberframes is quite spectacular," says Alison Noble of Blue Sky Architecture. "They managed to create a real rustic feel with the timber treatment and metal accents. It's a very dynamic and dramatic design."



private spaces

SEE CLEARLY (FAR LEFT).

Glass elements like the elevator and stair surrounds add an interesting design detail while keeping things open inside and outside the home. "There's also a wine room and sauna, and it's all glassed in," says Bowes. "The elevator needed it for safety reasons, but it looks really cool."

ROCK THIS WAY (LEFT; BELOW).

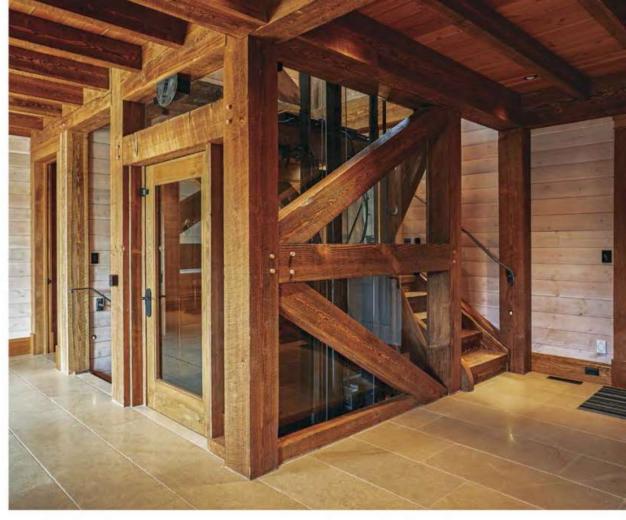
Natural materials are always a perfect pair. Real stacked stone takes center stage in the master bedroom. Matching tile walls and floors in the bathroom add a sleek feel, while well-placed skylights usher in extra light.













LAP OF LUXURY (FAR LEFT).

Luxury details always take a home to the next level. The lap pool in this home was originally outdoors, but Canadian Timberframes constructed a beautiful timber-frame structure to enclose the special space. Metal accents and stone surroundings add extra color and natural appeal.

MOVING ON UP (ABOVE; LEFT).

An elevator is always a smart design decision in a home where you're planning on living during your older years. This elevator reaches all the way up to the loft/office space, and was designed to pay homage to the mining industry that the homeowner knows and loves. Glass walls with surrounding timbers keep the elevator safe while still allowing people to see inside and out.

IN THE DETAILS (LEFT).

No matter the size of home, always remember to focus on the details. All of the switch plates and push buttons for the elevator were handcrafted to mimic the look of an old mining shaft.



a chat with ...

JEFF BOWES CANADIAN TIMBERFRAMES

What is your favorite feature in this house?

Our antique finish on the timber frame is one of my favorite features. The age-old circle-sawn look that we are able to produce on new structural timber was so appropriate for this project. We often do this very custom process on smaller projects, but we consider ourselves fortunate to have had someone so impressed with the samples we provided that they had us do the same treatment on a very large timber structure.

The mix of warm wood and metal accents creates a unique look that pairs perfectly together. Why do you think this combination works so well?

I think it comes down to "honest architecture" and

using authentic materials. Although the heavy steel became a welcome aesthetic feature for the client, all the steel was required and is performing structurally. It was much easier to work the metal connectors into the timber frame in a way that featured this steel instead of having to hide it. Lucky for us, the client loved working with our design team to make the steel an exciting feature.

In a house this size, how do you keep the spaces from feeling overly vast?

I may be biased, but it's the wood. I find that most people walk into the spaces we create and feel a sense of warmth and ease. Heavy timber is one of the most natural building materials, and all of us relate to that feeling on some level.





Furnishing School

Finish off your home with our favorite picks for decor and accessories.

1. Tequila Barrel Bench from Wild Wings Collection. \$795. (wildwings.com) 2. Vintage Glass Tile from Walker Zanger. Call for pricing. (walkerzanger.com) 3. Corbel Arched Entry Set from Rocky Mountain Hardware. From \$360. (rockymountainhardware.com) 4. Belmont Mint Kitchen Island from Crate & Barrel. \$499. (crateandbarrel.com) 5. On the Ranch (Bison/Buffalo) Metal Wall Sculpture from Dolan Geiman. \$1,500. (dolangeiman.com)









For more of our favorite home finds, visit mywoodhome.com.



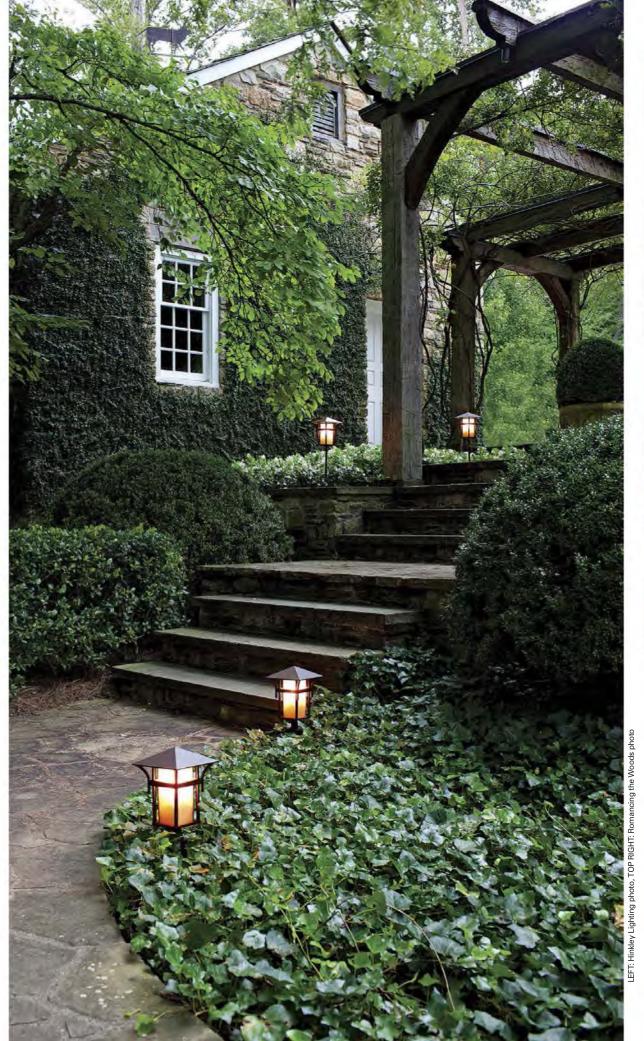
- 1. Key Biscayne (#59135) from Hunter Fan Company. Call for pricing. (hunterfan.com) 2. Levon DC from Fanimation. \$540. (fanimation.com)
- 3. Haiku from Big Ass Fans. From \$895. (bigassfans.com) 4. Gyro Twin Turbo from Minka Lighting, Inc. Call for pricing. (minkagroup.net)
- 5. The Beckwith from Fanimation. \$525. (fanimation.com) 6. Landsdowne (#59172) from Hunter Fan Company. \$150. (hunterfan.com)
- 7. Prairie Ceiling Fan from Lumens. From \$384. (lumens.com)



1. Indoor/Outdoor Easy-Care Rug from L.L.Bean. From \$159. (Ilbean.com) 2. Garden Party Rug from Capel Rugs. Call for pricing. (capelrugs.com) 3. Carnival Stripe Ruge from Plow & Hearth. From \$49.95. (plowhearth.com) 4. Merida Indoor/Outdoor Rug from Ballard Designs. From \$89. (ballarddesigns.com) 5. Finesse Afghan Rug from Capel Rugs. Call for pricing. (capelrugs.com) 6. Koen Chevron Indoor/Outdoor Rug from Crate & Barrel. From \$29.95. (crateandbarrel.com) 7. Oxford Stripe Indoor/Outdoor Rug from Pottery Barn. From \$49. (potterybarn.com)



1. Brisbane Cord Hung Pendant from Barn Light Electric. \$185. (barnlightelectric.com) 2. New Teardrop Glass Filament Chandelier from Restoration Hardware. From \$1,295. (rh.com) 3. Hood Pendant (with net) from Rejuvenation. \$480. (rejuvenation.com) 4. Rose City Classic Schoolhouse Pendant from Rejuvenation. \$275. (rejuvenation.com) 5. Pasadena Collection Outdoor Hanging Pendant from Kichler. Call for pricing. (kichler.com) 6. 20th C. Factory Filament Reflector Pendant from Restoration Hardware. \$139. (rh.com) 7. Arteriors Mason Wide Hammered Iron Pendant from Layla Grace. \$348. (laylagrace.com)



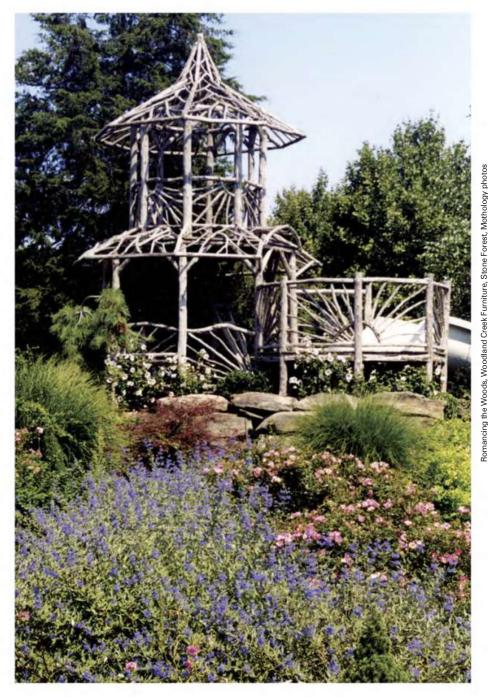




Walk On the Wild Side

Let Mother Nature run free in your garden.

ABOVE: In a rustic garden, choose furnishings that echo the forest, like this twiggy bench. **OPPOSITE**: Vines growing up over a pergola soften the entry to this home. Path lights tucked into bedding plants accent the textured walkway.



HEN EVERYTHING including our homes has gone high-tech, the garden becomes a precious commodity. "The garden is a place to escape the toils of day-to-day urban life and get back to nature," says Susan Ingram of ARustic Garden.com. To keep your landscaping from adding to your list of day-to-day tasks, consider a rustic garden. Romantic, quirky, free-flowing — all

of these terms describe the slightly untamed nature of the rustic garden.

Interested in creating your own uncivilized space? **START WITH HARD-SCAPING**, but keep walks, walls and other permanent features casual. Skip the hard edges and straight lines. "Keep in mind that Mother Nature doesn't space rocks out evenly so it looks like a minefield," says Jenny Peterson of J. Peterson Garden Design in Austin, Texas.



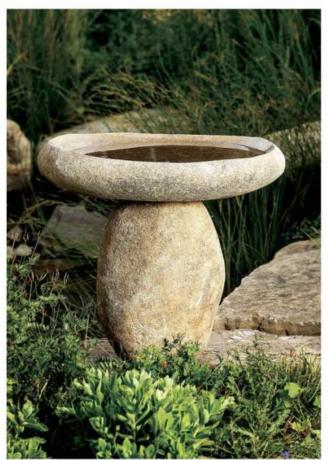
"She places plants and rocks so that they have a relationship to one another."

Lay out meandering paths using stepping stones or layers of loose pea gravel. For walls, opt for mossy or tumbled stone. Fencing that's weathered or hand-wrought fits the style. Vintage brick or aged cobblestones are rustic garden classics.

WATER FEATURES add lively sound and dancing light to any garden. In keeping with a rustic theme, you can re-create a babbling brook tumbling over rocks or set up a fountain that looks rugged or organic. "Birdbaths will encourage birds to come to the garden," Ingram says. "Just remember to place them in a secluded location with cover nearby, or the birds might be too shy to bathe."

Look for **PLANTS THAT RE- QUIRE LITTLE MAINTENANCE** and





will spread as they mature. Plants that are native to your region will feel right at home. The rustic garden doesn't require frequent shaping with hedge trimmers. In fact, a look that's almost overrun and a bit wild suits the style.

Get creative with **ORNAMENTS** AND ACCESSORIES. For materials, think rust, chipped paint, hand-thrown ceramics and weathered wood. All of these less-than-perfect materials bring extra personality to your garden. Accents should look natural or handmade, Try incorporating antiques or items that symbolize your region — whether they're seashells or old farm tools.

Remember to include **SEATING** in your garden plans. A stone or wood bench, a low wall or wrought-iron table and chairs are all good choices. You'll want a place to sit and admire your wild and wonderful garden.



FAR LEFT: A whimsical twig structure adds height and character to a garden.

CENTER: Miniature barrels surround greenery in weathered wood.

TOP RIGHT: This bird bath's organic shape and natural texture carry the rustic theme.

ABOVE: Woven bee skeps form interesting shapes.



our new home may look fantastic by day, but what happens to your curb appeal when night falls? Like an artist uses layers of paint, you can highlight your home with layers of exterior lighting to create a masterpiece.

Lighting manufacturers offer almost limitless options for illuminating your home and grounds. Interior lighting depends on a variety of fixtures, from chandeliers to recessed lights to table and floor lamps. Employing a variety of fixtures will serve you well outdoors, too. Consider these elements of an overall exterior lighting plan:

- FLOODLIGHTS. What these fixtures lack in subtlety, they make up for in function, particularly in places like doorways, garage entries and paths. Plan to put floodlights on a timer or motion sensor, so they come on only when you need them. Watch placement at your home's entry; you don't want to blind visitors at your front door.
- WALL- AND CEILING-MOUNTED LIGHTS. Homeowners are increasingly drawn to outdoor living, and this love affair is fueling a greater selection of exterior light fixtures. Look for wall sconces, pendant lights

- and chandeliers that make a style statement on your covered porch or enclosed outdoor kitchen.
- POST LIGHTS. An exterior lighting classic, the post light is perfect for marking driveways. Shorter path lights help people find their way along your home's walks and garden paths.
- DECK LIGHTING. You can add illumination to your deck in a variety of ways, from post lights to rope lights, lights built in to stairs treads to outdoor table lamps. Light can make your deck safer and more welcoming after sunset.





SPOTLIGHTS. Don't let the dark obscure your landscape's most beautiful features. Highlight a special tree, the unique texture of a rock wall or a burbling fountain or pond with well-placed spotlights.

Keep energy efficiency in mind, especially with fixtures that will remain on for long periods of time. Compact fluorescent and LED bulbs may last longer and save energy over the years. Low-voltage lighting gives you more wattage bang for your buck. Solar-powered fixtures create their own energy source and are perfect for locations around your home's exterior that don't have electrical wiring.



OPPOSITE: Recessed lighting in the soffits of this contemporary home illuminates outdoor living areas. A gas torch adds light and the beauty of a flame.

ABOVE: This home makes a welcome first impression with matching post light, pendant light and a wall sconce at the front door.

LEFT: A hanging brass light signals to visitors. The wood post is a charming way to hint at the homeowners' rustic style.



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THE PERSIAN CARPET







PAPA BEAR'S NORTHWOODS

new style trend always seems captivating, but chasing a trend can backfire; once it's over, it's really over. Before you know it, your once-stylish decor begins a slow, unflattering descent.

In a new home, build your style on a foundation of classics, then bring it all to life with these tips, tricks and lasting trends.

HANG A MIRROR. Nearly any room in your home can benefit from the addition of a mirror. Not only will a reflective surface increase the visual parameters of the space, but a mirror never goes out of style.

ATTRACT OPPOSITES. The power of attraction creates sparks when two diverse styles are introduced to each other. Try pairing something sleek, possible edgy with the organic warmth of wood. Top a cherished antique table with the modern sophistication of a stainless-steel bowl. Flank a Victorian sideboard with two ultra-contemporary side chairs. These are matches made in heaven.

LOSE THE CLUTTER. Whether it's stacked-up bills or jumbled shoes or just too many tchotchkes taking up space, clutter can choke a room's overall ambiance. Take a long hard look at your extra stuff, and trash the excess. For the good-quality items you no longer need, think re-gifting, or donate your usable stuff to charity.

SEE BEYOND THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW. With just a twist, you can create a unique furniture arrangement. Think diagonal. Novelty is on the side of this easy decorating solution to the ho-hum, straightforward alternative to static furniture arrangements that run parallel to the walls. While there is merit to conventional symmetry, you can work wonders by shifting the center of focus on an angle.

MAKE IT SHIMMER. Every room deserves to be noticed. One of the easiest ways to turn on the charm is to add glints of sparkle. Glass and metallic accents create instant pizzazz, particularly in darker rooms with wood accents that would contrast so well with shine.

Try a knockout collection of cut glass, a crystal chandelier, a mirror-faced cabinet or a sideboard topped with a cache of mixed or matched votives and pillars.

LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT. Sometimes we love something but not for long. Pop for the big-ticket items that are classic and have staying power - a baby grand piano, a leather tufted sofa or an intricately carved French armoire. But





by all means, if a trendy piece would make the look of your room, spring for it. Just remember that its appeal maybe short-lived.

PICK A HUE. Walls, floors and upholstery look best in neutrals. With that as a backdrop, accent your accessories in one strong color like lemon yellow, sharp crimson or chartreuse green. By limiting the accent color, your rooms will become more unified.

MIX IT UP. Create a lively scene by blending styles and using a variety of textures. Start with an area rug: try sisal or jute, sculptured or frieze. Heighten the textural impact with silk or organza draperies overseeing cut velvet, leather suede-cloth, denim, linen or chenille furnishings. Blend in a healthy mix of unusually textured accessories from flokati to satin and your rooms will be instantly rejuvenated.

DOUBLE THE FUN. When you finally have to have "it," that perfect accessory, think of "it" outside the box of the room you are buying it for. Most accessories can do double duty — which gives you more design flexibility. That fabulous tabletop sculpture can look equally smashing whether in the dining room or on a coffee table in your great room. A velvet throw will work on your bed or on a sofa. An onyx chess set or funky floral arrangement makes a distinctive centerpiece on a console table or in the study.

WALK ON THE WILD SIDE. Spice up your space with the dramatic oomph of an animal print. This trend always ramps up the decor in any room. Frame a picture with a reptile-printed paper. Underlay furnishings with an area rug showing off vivid leopard spots. Trail a tiger-stripe fabric across the ottoman, favorite chair, lampshade, cutlery or throw pillows. Danger: Tread lightly, because a little dose of the wild and woolly goes a long way.

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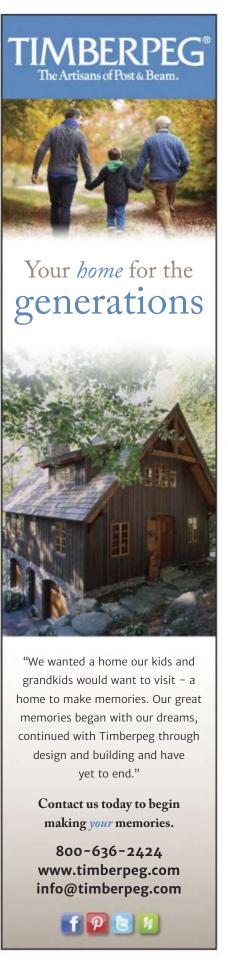
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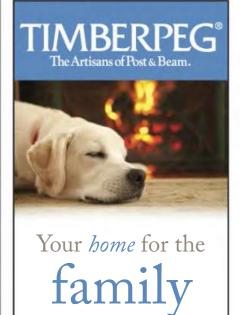
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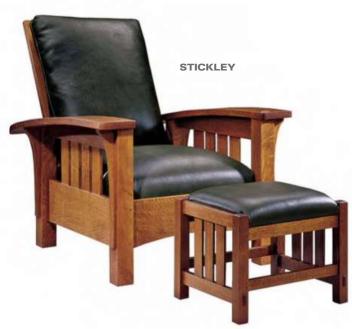
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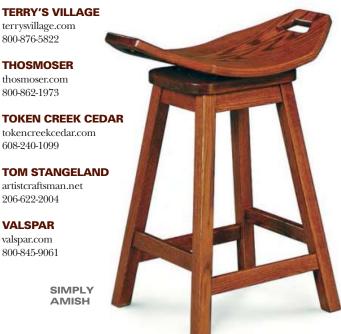
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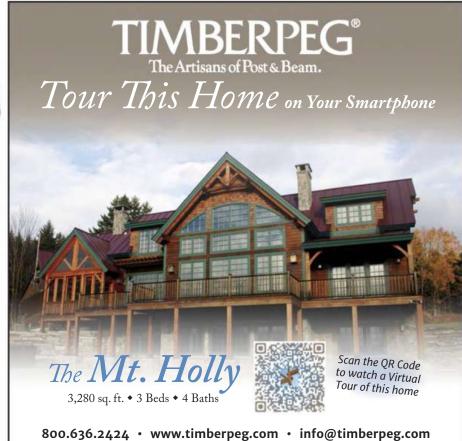
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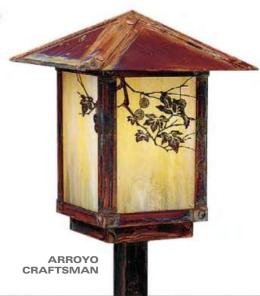
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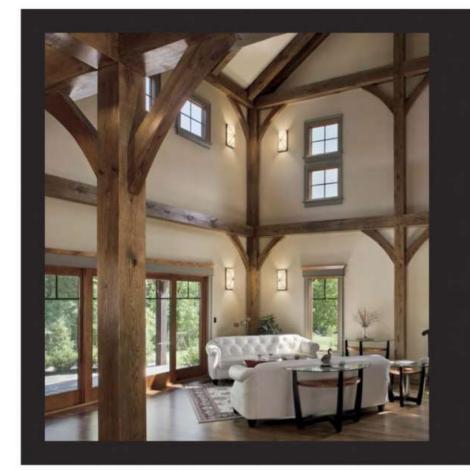
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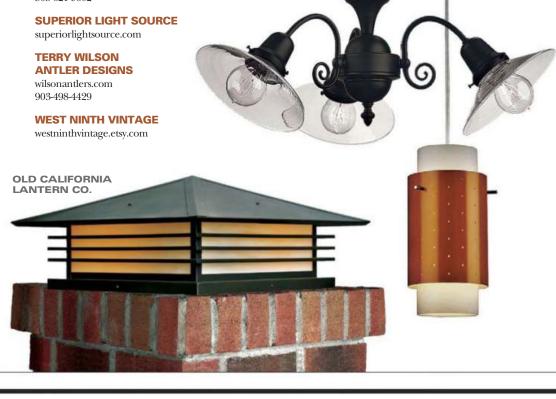
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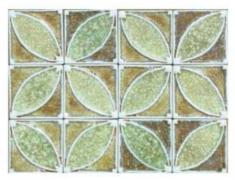
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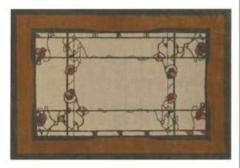
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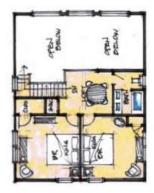


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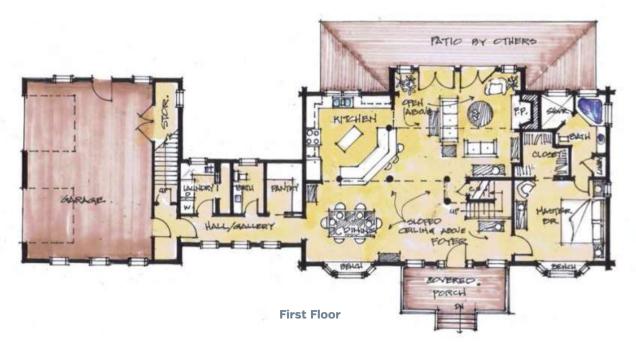
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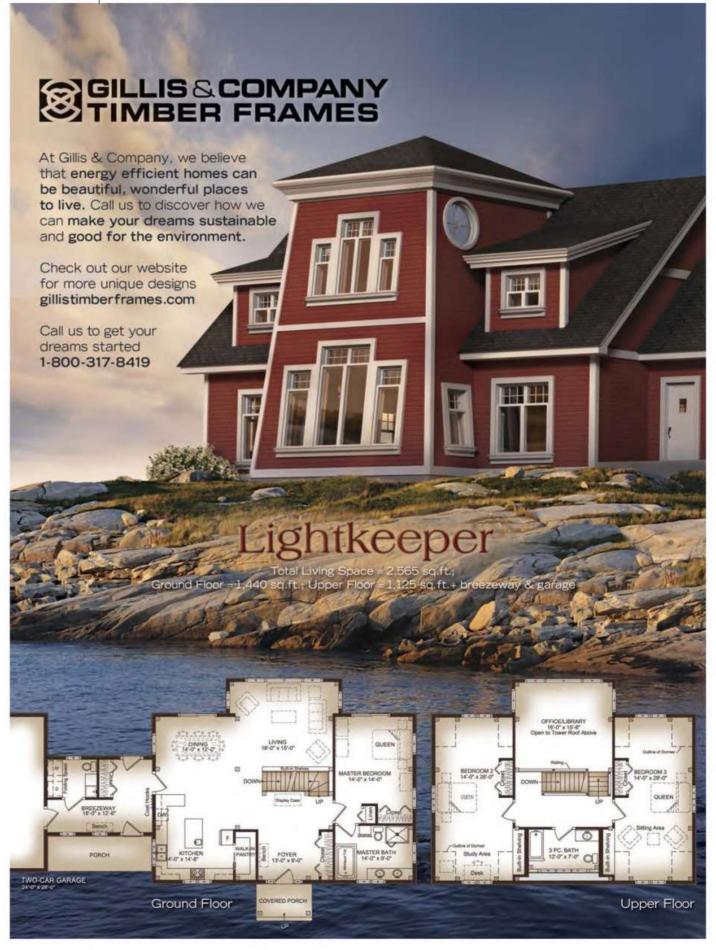
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The Clarkston Place

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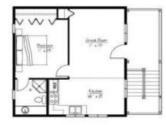




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The classic style of the Mountain Retreat features an open great room, dining room and kitchen areas. The master suite is conveniently on the main floor along with a guest powder room. The flexible second level has two bedrooms, a full bath and a reading or game loft overlooking the great room.







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The Carney-Kuhlman home was designed with luxury and comfort in mind. This open hybrid floor plan showcases many different timber frame styles. The kitchen opens up to the hearth, breakfast and great room. The great room then leads to a second floor loft which provides a peaceful place to relax

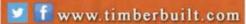


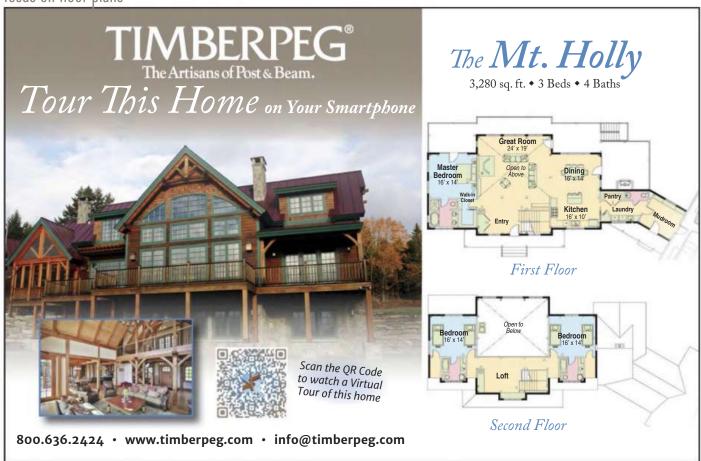


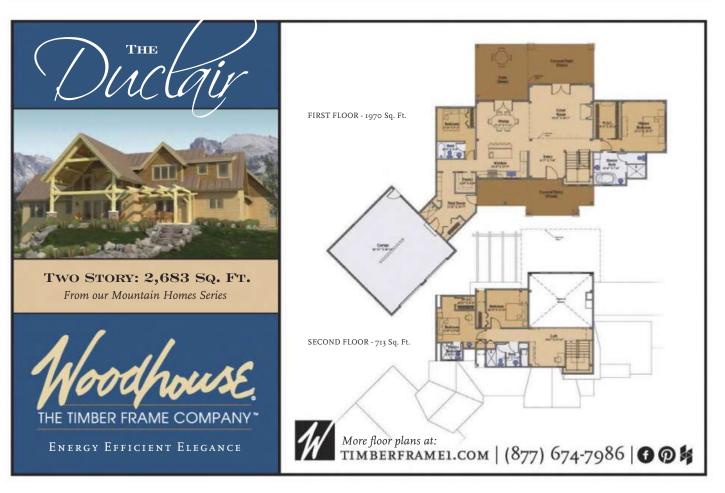




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MOOSE RIDGE

The Moose Ridge is a modern take on the mountain lodge. It's a smaller post and beam that lives large. The design and window placement make the home feel more spacious, and the three bedroom, two bath layout uses every inch of space to maximum efficiency. The upper loft doubles as both sitting area and play space for young children. The common area of the house is open concept for easy living and freedom to move from space to space.

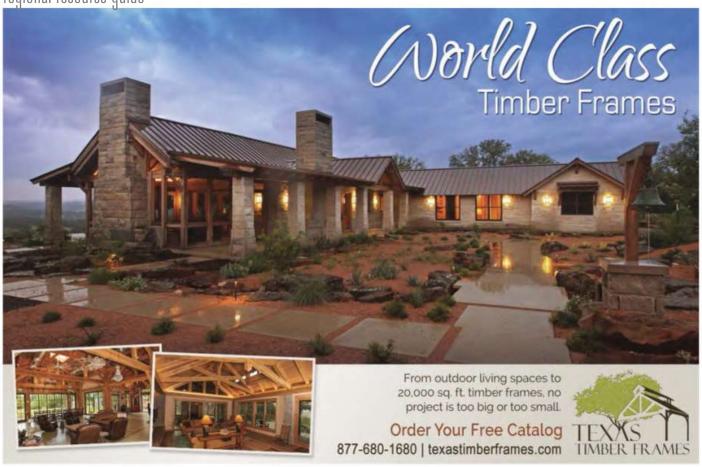


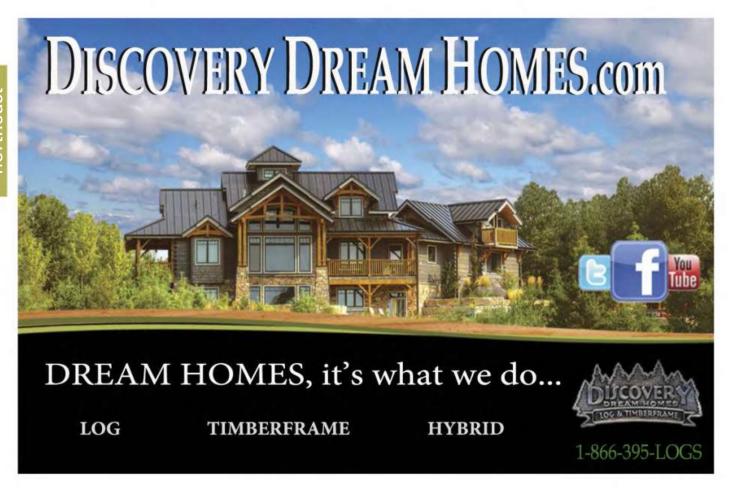


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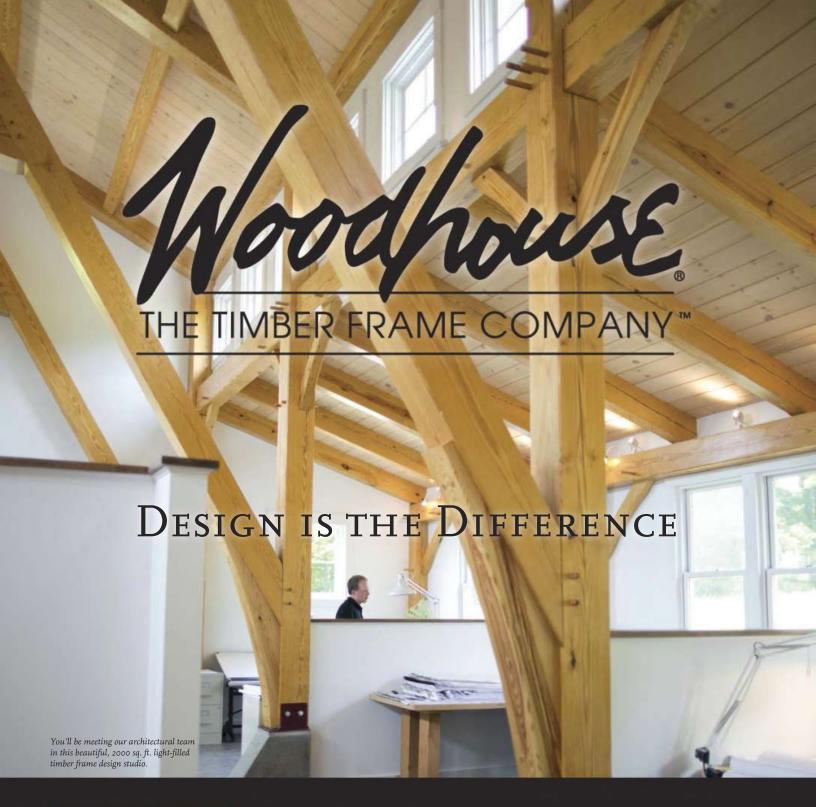
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